AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of performing image processing on an image synthesized from a natural image and a computer graphic (CG) image, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a specification of first and second regions in said synthesized image, the first region comprising the natural image;

determining a color of pixels in the second region;

designating each pixel in the first region, which is judged to have the same color as the color of pixels in the second region, as being part of the CG-image;

separating said synthesized image into a natural-image region and a CG-image region, wherein said separating includes by-removing pixels of a specified color from the synthesized first region the pixels designated as part of the CG-image;

computing an image-processing parameter for said image processing, based on said natural-image region;

acquiring an intermediate image by performing said image processing on said synthesized image, based on said image-processing parameter; and

acquiring a processed image by synthesizing said natural-image region contained in said intermediate image and said CG-image region contained in said synthesized image.

2. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein a boundary portion between said natural-image region and CG-image region contained in said synthesized image is blurred and then said CG-image region in said synthesized image and said natural-image region in said intermediate image are synthesized.

3. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said synthesized image is obtained by reading out synthesized image data from a storage medium.

4. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein

specification of a region containing said natural image is received;

said synthesized image is separated into said natural-image contained region and the remaining region; and

said natural-image region and said CG-image region are separated from each other by removing a region that has the same color as a color contained in said remaining region, from said region containing said natural-image.

5. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said separated natural image and CG image are displayed.

6. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein

a maximum rectangular region that is inscribed in said natural-image region is set; and

said image-processing parameter is computed based on an image within said maximum rectangular region.

7. (Currently Amended) An image processor for performing image processing on an image synthesized from a natural image and a computer graphic (CG) image, said image processor comprising:

separation means for separating said synthesized image into a natural-image region and a CG-image region, wherein

        first and second regions are specified for said synthesized image, the first region comprising the natural image,

        each pixel in the first region, which is judged to have the same color as pixels in the second region, is designated as being part of the CG-image,

        and the separation of the synthesized image includes by-removing pixels of a specified color-from the synthesized-first region the pixels designated as part of the CG-image;

parameter computation means for computing an image-processing parameter for said image processing, based on said natural-image region;

processing means for acquiring an intermediate image by performing said image processing on said synthesized image, based on said image-processing parameter; and

synthesis means for acquiring a processed image by synthesizing said natural-image region contained in said intermediate image and said CG-image region contained in said synthesized image.

8. (Original) The image processor as set forth in claim 7, wherein said synthesis means blurs a boundary portion between said natural-image region and CG-image region contained in said synthesized image and then synthesizes said CG-image region in said synthesized image and said natural-image region in said intermediate image.

9. (Original) The image processor as set forth in claim 7, further comprising read-out means for obtaining said synthesized image by reading out synthesized image data from a storage medium.

10. (Original) The image processor as set forth in claim 7, which further comprises means for receiving specification of a region containing said natural image, and wherein said separation means separates said synthesized image into said natural-image contained region and the remaining region, and separates said natural-image region and said CG-image region from each other by removing a region that has the same color as a color contained in said remaining region, from said natural-image contained region.

11. (Original) The image processor as set forth in claim 7, further comprising display means for displaying said separated natural image and CG image.

12. (Original) The image processor as set forth in claim 7, wherein said parameter computation means sets a maximum rectangular region that is inscribed in said natural-image region, and computes said image-processing parameter, based on an image within said maximum rectangular region.

13. (Currently Amended) A system for performing image processing on an image synthesized from a natural image and a computer graphic (CG) image, said system comprising:

a device configured to specify a first and second region in said synthesized image, the first region comprising the natural image;

a device configured to separate said synthesized image into a natural-image region and a CG-image region by:

determining a color of pixels in the second region,

designating each pixel in the first region, which is judged to have the same color as the color of pixels in the second region, as being part of the CG-image, and

removing pixels of a specified color from the synthesized first region the pixels designated as part of the CG-image;

a device configured to compute an image-processing parameter for said image processing, based on said natural-image region;

a device configured to acquire an intermediate image by performing said image processing on said synthesized image, based on said image-processing parameter; and

a device configured to acquire a processed image by synthesizing said natural-image region contained in said intermediate image and said CG-image region contained in said synthesized image.

14. (Previously Presented) The system as set forth in claim 13, wherein said device configured to acquire the process image employs a procedure of blurring a boundary portion between said natural-image region and CG-image region contained in said synthesized image and then synthesizing said CG-image region in said synthesized image and said natural-image region in said intermediate image.

15. (Previously Presented) The system as set forth in claim 13, further comprising a device configured to obtain said synthesized image by reading out synthesized image data from a storage medium.

16. (Previously Presented) The system as set forth in claim 13, further comprising a device configured to receive specification of a region containing said natural image, and wherein said device configured to separate said synthesized image employs a procedure of separating said synthesized image into said natural-image contained region and the remaining region, and separating said natural-image region and said CG-image region from each other by removing a region that has the same color as a color contained in said remaining region, from said natural-image contained region.

17. (Previously Presented) The system as set forth in claim 13, further comprising a device configured to display said separated natural image and CG image.

18. (Previously Presented) The system as set forth in claim 13, wherein said parameter computation procedure is a procedure of setting a maximum rectangular region that is inscribed in said natural-image region, and computing said image-processing parameter, based on an image within said maximum rectangular region.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage device having recorded therein a program for causing a computer to execute a method of performing image processing on an image synthesized from a natural image and a computer graphic (CG) image, said program comprising:

a procedure of specifying a first and second region in said synthesized image, the first region comprising the natural image;

a procedure of separating said synthesized image into a natural-image region and a CG-image region by:

determining a color of pixels in the second region,

designating each pixel in the first region, which is judged to have the same color as the color of pixels in the second region, as being part of the CG-image, and

_____removing ~~pixels of a specified color~~ from the ~~synthesized~~ first region the pixels designated as part of the CG-image;

a procedure of computing an image-processing parameter for said image processing, based on said natural-image region;

a procedure of acquiring an intermediate image by performing said image processing on said synthesized image, based on said image-processing parameter; and

a procedure of acquiring a processed image by synthesizing said natural-image region contained in said intermediate image and said CG-image region contained in said synthesized image.

20. (Original) The computer readable recording medium as set forth in claim 19, wherein said synthesis procedure is a procedure of blurring a boundary portion between said natural-image region and CG-image region contained in said synthesized image and then synthesizing said CG-image region in said synthesized image and said natural-image region in said intermediate image.

21. (Original) The computer readable recording medium as set forth in claim 19, wherein the program further comprises a procedure of obtaining said synthesized image by reading out synthesized image data from a storage medium.

22. (Original) The computer readable recording medium as set forth in claim 19, wherein the program further comprises a procedure of receiving specification of a region containing said natural image, and wherein said separation procedure is a procedure of separating said synthesized image into said natural-image contained region and the remaining region, and separating said natural-image region and said CG-image region from each other by removing a region that has the same color as a color contained in said remaining region, from said natural-image contained region.

23. (Original) The computer readable recording medium as set forth in claim 19, wherein the program further comprises a procedure of displaying said separated natural image and CG image.

24. (Original) The computer readable recording medium as set forth in claim 19, wherein said parameter computation procedure is a procedure of setting a maximum rectangular region that is inscribed in said natural-image region, and computing said image-processing parameter, based on an image within said maximum rectangular region.